

Hepatitis C Resource Guide

Introduction

This Hepatitis C Resource Guide contains information about a range of services available for people at risk for or diagnosed with hepatitis C in Massachusetts. The resources in this guide are specific to hepatitis C only. Some individuals may need other types of services in addition to those specific to hepatitis C (e.g., substance abuse treatment, mental health, or HIV/AIDS services); please see the “Additional Resources” section (page 26) for links to information about those services.

This guide focuses on information about hepatitis C services. If you are looking for educational materials or general information on hepatitis please visit www.mass.gov/hepc or call the Hepatitis C Hotline at 1-888-443-HEPC (4372). The Hepatitis C Hotline is a toll-free resource that provides information about support groups, referrals for confidential testing and counseling, and information on accessing other hepatitis C services in Massachusetts.

This resource guide is an evolving and living document. If you are aware of additional resources that may benefit a person at risk for or diagnosed with viral hepatitis, please contact the Viral Hepatitis Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) at 617-983-6800. Similarly, if you work for an organization that provides hepatitis C services and were not included in this version of the resource guide, please contact us with your program information. We will be updating this resource document periodically to include the most current information.

The information presented here is provided as a guide for the public. The presence of services and organizations in this resource guide does not constitute an endorsement by MDPH of any service or organization.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) provides viral hepatitis related services for a range of different populations in the Commonwealth. The Viral Hepatitis Program exists within the MDPH Division of Epidemiology and Immunization.

How to Use This Guide

This guide includes information about where to get tested for hepatitis C, how to access medical care, and resources that can be used to help prevent getting or spreading hepatitis C and other infections. The information is organized by region and presented in six sections, which are explained below.

1. **Health care organizations** (page 3): a listing of health care organizations that are access points for people at risk for or living with hepatitis C. The health care services in this section are presented in two categories. The first category lists initial access points for hepatitis services. These services are generally provided through primary care settings, like community health centers or MDPH-funded hepatitis C medical management sites. The second category lists information about specialized health care organizations that provide comprehensive care and treatment for hepatitis C related liver disease. Generally, these health care organizations are hospitals or specialized clinics.
2. **Counseling and support groups** (page 18): a listing of available support groups for people at risk for or living with hepatitis C.
3. **Access to clean needles** (page 21): information about pharmacy access and needle exchange programs.
4. **Alternative medicine and complementary therapy** (page 22): information about different types of alternative medicine and complementary therapy services that people with hepatitis C may want to access.
5. **Paying for care** (page 23): information about how to access insurance programs in Massachusetts, how to enroll in patient assistance programs, and information about enrolling in clinical trials.
6. **Additional Resources** (page 25): information about other types of services an individual with hepatitis C may want to access.

Section 1: Health Care Organizations

Information on accessing health care services in Massachusetts is presented in the tables, organized by regions, on the following pages. Sites marked with an asterisk (*) receive funding from MDPH.

Community Based Health Care Organizations

The services offered by these organizations are broken into three categories:

1. *Hepatitis C Counseling and Testing* – These include prevention counseling and education to assess risk for hepatitis C and tests to determine whether or not a person is infected with the hepatitis C virus.
2. *Hepatitis A and B Vaccination* – All organizations listed offer hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine.
3. *Hepatitis C Treatment* – Medication-based treatment for patients with hepatitis C.

Some of the organizations listed offer services at more than one site. In most cases, the contact information listed is for the organization's primary location.

Specialty Clinics and Hospitals

There are a number of ways to locate a medical provider in Massachusetts who specializes in hepatitis C management and the diagnosis and treatment of liver disease. These include asking for a referral from your primary care physician, contacting your health insurance provider and calling the Hepatitis C Hotline at 1-888-443-HEPC.

In addition, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides a web-based listing of all physicians who are licensed to practice medicine. This physician profile listing allows you to search for a health care provider by town, specialty, and/or hospital affiliation. The website for the listing is: <http://profiles.massmedboard.org/MA-Physician-Profile-Find-Doctor.asp>.

The following are descriptions of some medical specialists that may be useful for a person diagnosed with hepatitis C.

- *Gastroenterologist* – a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, which includes the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, pancreas, liver, gallbladder, and biliary system.
- *Hepatologist* – a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases.
- *Infectious Disease Specialist* – a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, including hepatitis C. In general, specialty care provided in this type of setting is accessed through a referral from a primary care provider or health center.

Central Region Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Community Health Connections Family Health Center 275 Nichols Road Fitchburg, MA 01420 • 978-665-5901	•		
Desmond Callan Community Health Center 450 West River Street Orange, MA 01364 • 978-544-7800	•	•	
Family Health Center of Worcester 26 Queen Street Worcester, MA 01610 • 508-860-7700	•	•	
Framingham Community Health Center 19 Concord Street Framingham, MA 01701 • 508-370-0113	•	•	•
Great Brook Valley Health Center * 19 Tacoma Street Worcester, MA 01605 • 508-854-3260	•	•	•
Greater Gardner Community Health Center 175 Connors Street Gardner, MA 01440 • 978-632-2100	•	•	
Tri-River Family Health Center 281 East Hartford Avenue Uxbridge, MA 01569 • 508-278-5573	•	•	

Central Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals
Clinton Hospital (UMass Memorial) 201 Highland Street, Clinton, MA • 978-368-3000
Harrington Memorial Hospital 100 South Street, Southbridge, MA • 508-765-9771
Saint Vincent Hospital 20 Worcester Blvd., Worcester, MA • 508-363-5000
UMass Memorial Medical Center 55 Lake Avenue, Worcester, MA • 508-334-3068 (university campus)

Greater Boston Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Boston Medical Center Center for Infectious Diseases Clinic 850 Harrison Avenue Dowling Building, Ground Floor Boston, MA 02118 • 617-414-4290	•	•	•
Boston Medical Center Project Trust (walk-in) 721 Massachusetts Ave. Boston, MA 02188 • 617-414-4495	•	•	
Bowdoin Street Community Health Center 230 Bowdoin Street Dorchester, MA 02122 • 617-754-0100	•	•	•
Broadway Health Center, Somerville Adult Medicine 300 Broadway, 1st Floor Somerville, MA 02145 • 617-284-7000	•	•	
Brookside Community Health Center 3297 Washington Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 617-522-4700	•	•	•
Cambridge Family Health- Inman Square 237 Hampshire Street Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617-876-0217	•		
Cambridge Family Health North- Porter Square 2067 Mass Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140 • 617-575-5570	•		
Cambridge Health Alliance * 230 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA • 617-591-6734	•	•	•
Cambridge Women's Health Center 1493 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617-665-2800	•		
Codman Square Health Center 637 Washington Street Dorchester, MA 02124 • 617-825-9660	•	•	
Dimock Community Health Center 55 Dimock Street Roxbury, MA 02119 • 617-442-8800	•	•	
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center 1353 Dorchester Avenue Dorchester, MA 02122 • 617-288-3230	•	•	
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center 10 Gove Street East Boston, MA 02128 • 671-569-5800	•		

Greater Boston Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
East Cambridge Health Center 163 Gore Street Cambridge, MA 02141 • 617-665-3000	•	•	
East Somerville Health Center 42 Cross Street Somerville, MA 02145 • 617-575-5520	•	•	
Fenway Community Health Center * 7 Haviland Street Boston, MA 02115 • 617-267-0159	•	•	•
Geiger Gibson Community Health Center 250 Mount Vernon Avenue Dorchester, MA 02125 • 617-288-1140	•	•	
Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center 4199 Washington Street Roslindale, MA 02131 • 617-323-4440	•	•	•
Harbor Family Health Center 37 Devine Way South Boston, MA 02127 • 617-269-0312	•		
Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center 632 Blue Hill Avenue Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-825-3400	•	•	
Health Care for the Homeless Program 729 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118 • 617- 414-7779	•	•	•
Internal Medicine Associates of Somerville 236 Highland Avenue Medical Arts Building Somerville, MA 02143 • 617-591-4920	•	•	
Joseph M. Smith Health Center 287 Western Avenue Allston, MA 02134 • 617-783-0500	•		
564 Main Street Waltham, MA 02452 • 781-693-3800	•		
Manet Community Health Centers <u>Houghs Neck</u> 1193 Sea Street Quincy, MA 02169 • 617-471-8683	•	•	
<u>Quincy Medical Center</u> 114 Whitwell Street 2nd Floor, B wing Quincy, MA 02169 • 857-403-0820	•	•	
<u>Snug Harbor</u>	•	•	

Greater Boston Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
9 Bicknell Street Quincy, MA 02169 • 617-471-4715			
<u>North Quincy</u> 110 West Squantum Street North Quincy, MA 02171 • 617-376-3000	•	•	
Manet Community Health Center at Hull 180 George Washington Blvd. Hull, MA 02045 • 781-925-4550	•	•	
Martha Eliot Health Center 75 Bickford Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 617-971-2320	•	•	
Mattapan Community Health Center 1425 Blue Hill Avenue Mattapan, MA 02126 • 617-296-0061	•	•	
MGH Back Bay 388 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215 • 617-267-7171	•	•	
MGH Charlestown HealthCare Center 73 High Street Charlestown, MA 02129 • 617-724-8135	•	•	•
MGH Everett Family Care 19-23 Norwood Street Everett, MA 02149 • 617-394-7500	•	•	
Neponset Health Center 398 Neponset Avenue Dorchester, MA 02122 • 617-282-3200	•	•	
North Cambridge Health Center 266 B Rindge Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140 • 617-665-3340	•	•	
North End Community Health Center 332 Hanover Street Boston, MA 02113 • 617-643-8000	•	•	
Revere Family Health Center 454 Broadway Revere, MA 02151 • 781-485-8222	•	•	•
Riverside Health Center 205 Western Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617-575-5620	•	•	
Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center 435 Warren Street Roxbury, MA 02119 • 617-442-7400	•	•	
Sidney Borum Jr. Community Health Center 130 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 • 617-457-8140	•	•	

Greater Boston Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Somerville Primary Care 26 Central Street Somerville, MA 02143 • 617-591-6300	•	•	
Somerville Teen Connection Somerville High School 81 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 • 617-575-5690	•	•	
South Boston Community Health Center 409 West Broadway South Boston, MA 02127 • 617-269-7500	•	•	
South Cove Community Health Center 885 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111 • 617-482-7555	•	•	
275 Hancock Street Quincy, MA • 617-745-0280	•	•	
South End Community Health Center 1601 Washington Street Boston, MA 02118 • 617-425-2000	•	•	
Southern Jamaica Plain Community Health Center 640 Centre Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 617-983-4100	•	•	
St. Elizabeth's Health Care at Brighton Marine 77 Warren Street Brighton, MA 02135 • 617-562-5200	•	•	
Teen Health Center at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School 459 Broadway Cambridge, MA 02138 • 617-665-1548	•	•	
The Primary Care Center at Cambridge Hospital 1493 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617-665-1068	•	•	

Greater Boston Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Union Square Family Health 337 Somerville Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 • 617-665-3370	•	•	
Upham's Corner Health Center 415 Columbia Road Dorchester, MA 02125 • 617-287-8000	•	•	•
Whittier Street Health Center 1125 Tremont Street Roxbury, MA 02120 • 617-427-1000	•	•	
Windsor Street Health Center 119 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617-665-3600	•	•	

MGH Hepatitis C Project

MGH Revere Community Health Center • 300 Ocean Ave, Revere MA 02151, 781-485-6000
Based in a primary care setting, the Revere Community Health Center provides a comprehensive treatment program for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis C.

Greater Boston Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham 148 Chestnut Street, Needham, MA • 781-453-3000
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA • 617-667-7000
Boston Medical Center 1 Boston Medical Center Place, Boston, MA • 617-638-8000
Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Endoscopy 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA • 617-732-5500
Caritas Norwood Hospital 800 Washington Street, Norwood, MA • 781-769-4000
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA • 617-632-3000
Emerson Hospital 133 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, Concord, MA • 978-369-1400
Faulkner Hospital 1153 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA • 617-983-7000

Greater Boston Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals	
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital	Comprehensive HIV Services, co-infection 170 Morton Street, Jamaica Plain, MA • 617-552-8110
Massachusetts General Hospital/GI Clinic	55 Fruit Street, Blake 4, Boston, MA • 617-724-6006
Mount Auburn Hospital	Department of Medicine, Division of GI 330 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA • 617-492-3500
New England Baptist Hospital	125 Parker Hill Avenue, Boston, MA • 617-754-5800
Newton-Wellesley Hospital	2000 Washington Street, Suite 368, Newton, MA • 617-243-6000
Somerville Hospital - GI Center	230 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA • 617-591-6767
Tufts-New England Medical Center GI Unit	750 Washington Street, Boston, MA • 617-233-5884

Northeast Region Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Cambridge Health Alliance Malden 195 Canal Street Malden, MA 02148 • 781-338-0500	•	•	
Greater Lawrence Family Health Center * 11 Lawrence Street, Suite 305 Lawrence, MA 01841 • 978-685-7663	•	•	•
Lowell Community Health Center 597 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01854 • 978-937-9700	•		
Lynn Community Health Center * 269 Union Street Lynn, MA 01901 • 781-581-3900	•	•	•
MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center: Adolescent and Pediatric Medicine 151 Everett Avenue Chelsea, MA 02150 • 617-884-8300	•	•	
MGH Revere HealthCare Center 300 Ocean Avenue Revere, MA 02151 • 781-485-6000	•	•	
North Shore Health Project 67 Middle St Gloucester, MA 01930 • 978-283-0101	•	•	
Salem Family Health Center 47 Congress Street Salem, MA 01970 • 978-744-8388	•	•	
Torigian Family Health Center 89 Foster Street Peabody, MA • 978-532-4903	•	•	

Northeast Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals
Melrose-Wakefield Hospital • Viral Liver Disease Unit 585 Lebanon Street, Melrose, MA • 781-979-3000
Beverly Hospital 85 Herrick Street, Beverly, MA • 978-922-3000
Hallmark Health Corporation • Lawrence Memorial Hospital 170 Governors Avenue, Medford, MA • 781-306-6000
Lahey Clinic Hospital Inc. 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA • 781-744-5100

Northeast Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals	
North Shore Medical Center	81 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA • 978-741-1200
Salem Hospital	81 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA • 978-741-1200
Union Hospital	500 Lynnfield Street, Lynn, MA • 781-477-5088
Whidden Memorial Hospital	103 Garland Street, Everett, MA • 617-389-6270

Southeast Region Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center 157 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301 • 508-559-6699	•	•	•
Cape Cod Free Clinic and Community Health Center 210 Jones Rd, Suite 22 Falmouth, MA 02540 40 Steeple St. Mashpee, MA 026491 Trowbridge Rd, Ground Floor Bourne, MA 02532 • 508-477-7090	•	•	
Duffy Health Center 105 Park Street Hyannis, MA 02601 • 508-771-9599	•	•	
Falmouth Family Planning * 210 Jones Road Falmouth, MA 02540 • 508-540-2949	•	•	
Greater New Bedford * Community Health Center 874 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740 • 508-992-6553	•	•	•
Healthfirst Family Care Center 102 County Street Fall River, MA 02723 • 508-679-8111	•	•	
Hyannis Family Planning * 1019 Iyahough Road Hyannis, MA 02601 • 508-771-0810	•	•	
Island Health Care 245 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Rd. Edgartown, MA 02639 • 508-939-9358	•	•	
Mid-Upper Cape Community Health Center 30 Elm Avenue Hyannis, MA 02601 • 508-778-0300	•	•	
Outer Cape Health Services: Provincetown Health Center 49 Harry Kemp Way Provincetown, MA 02657 • 508-487-9395	•	•	•
Outer Cape Health Services: Wellfleet Health Center 3130 State Highway, Route 6 Wellfleet, MA 02667 • 508-349-3131 Counseling and Testing: 508-487-5727	•	•	•

SSTAR Family Healthcare Center * 386 Stanley Street Fall River, MA 02720 • 508-679-5222 x3277	•	•	•
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Southeast Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals

MDPH Medical Management sites are located in this region, see page 17 for more information.

Cape Cod Hospital: Infectious Disease Clinical Services

34 Park Street, Hyannis, MA • 508-862-5650

Falmouth Hospital: Infectious Disease Clinical Services

100 Ter Hun Drive, Falmouth, MA • 508-495-7190

Western Region Community Based Health Care Organizations			
Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Mason Square Health Center (Bay State) * 11 Wilbraham Road Springfield, MA 01109 • 413-794-8723	•	•	•
Brightwood Health Center (Bay State) * 380 Plainfield Street Springfield, MA 01107 • 413-794-5531	•	•	•
Caring Health Center, Inc. * 1038-1048 Main Street Springfield, MA 01103 • 413-693-1018	•	•	
Chicopee Health Center 203 Exchange Street (Market Square) Chicopee, MA 01013 • 413-420-2200	•	•	
Community Health Programs Health Center 54 Castle Street Great Barrington, MA 01230 • 413-528-8580	•		
Community Health Center of Franklin County 338 Montague City Road Turner Falls, MA 01376 • 413-772-3748	•	•	
Desmond Callan Community Health Center 450 West River Street Orange, MA 01364 • 978-544-7800	•	•	
Holyoke Health Center * 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01040 • 413-420-2130	•	•	•
Huntington Health Center 73 Russell Road Huntington, MA 01050 • 413-667-3009	•	•	
Springfield Health Services for the Homeless 95 State Street, Suite 201 Springfield, MA 01103 • 413-787-6744	•	•	•
Tapestry Health 16 Center Street Northampton, MA 01060 • 413-586-0310	•		
Worthington Health Center 58 Old North Road Worthington, MA 01098 • 413-238-5511	•	•	

Western Region Specialty Clinics and Hospitals	
Baystate Gastroenterology Clinic	3300 Main Street, Suite 3A&B, Springfield, MA • 413-794-7364
Franklin Medical Center	164 High Street, Greenfield, MA • 413-773-8557
Quabog Gastroenterology	25 Margorie Street, Ware MA • 413-967-2800 95 Sargent Street, Belchertown, MA • 413-967-2800
Wing Memorial Hospital and Medical Center	40 Wright Street, Palmer, MA • 413-283-7651

Hepatitis C Medical Management Programs

These programs offer comprehensive medical management services for individuals infected with hepatitis C who are not co-infected with HIV. Medical management for hepatitis C includes a variety of supportive and medical services, including medication-based treatment. While these programs do not offer surgery or other procedures, they will facilitate access to these services when appropriate.

Name / Contact Information	Hepatitis C counseling & testing	Hepatitis A & B vaccination	Hepatitis C treatment
Cape Cod Hospital: Infectious Disease Clinical Services 34 Park St. Hyannis, MA 02601 508-862-5650 • 1-888-711-0117	•	•	•
Falmouth Hospital: Cape Cod Infectious Disease Clinical Services 100 Ter Hun Drive, Basement Level Falmouth, MA 02540 • 508-495-7190	•	•	•
Fitchburg – UMASS HC at CHC Fitchburg 275 Nichols Road, 4th Floor Fitchburg, MA 01420 1-978-878-8300 Contact: Penny Himlan or Fernanda Gudino-Valentin		•	•
Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) 386 Stanley St. Fall River, MA 02720 508-679-5222 • 1-800-937-3610	•	•	•
Brightwood Health Center (Bay State Medical) 380 Plainfield Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-794-4458	•	•	•
Worcester – UMass Memorial Health Care Memorial Campus 119 Belmont Street Worcester, MA 01605 508-793-6548 Lisa Vazquez, Nurse Coordinator		•	•

Section 2: Counseling and Support Groups

For many individuals, counseling and support groups are an important part of a management or treatment plan. There are a number of different community organizations in Massachusetts that offer free counseling and support groups for people at risk for or living with hepatitis C.

Central Region

Hepatitis C: Out of Bounds

Location: Vernon Hill Plaza

5 Winthrop Street Worcester, MA

Time: Once a month on Thursdays, 6:00pm.

The exact date is decided at the previous meeting. Call for more information.

Contact: Lou, 508-363-6199 or www.hepcoutofbounds.org

Greater Boston

Hepatitis C (registration is required)

Location: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)

110 Francis Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA

Time: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Tiffany Geahigan, 617-632-1072

Hepatitis C

Location: Boston Medical Center

Time: 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Beth Cline, 617-638-6576

Northeast Region

Hepatitis C

Location: Lahey Clinic

41 Mall Rd, 4 West Conf. Room, Burlington, MA

Time: 1st Wednesday of each month, 6:00pm

Contact: Eric Richman, 781-744-5335; call before attending

Western Region

Hepatitis C

Location: Amherst College Cadigan Building, Rose Garvey Room
38 Woodside Avenue, Amherst MA

Time: 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Hepatitis C

Location: Holyoke Hospital • 575 Beech St, Main Conference Rm 1st Floor, Holyoke, MA

Time: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 6:30pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Hepatitis C

Location: Cooley Dickinson Hospital • 51 Locust St, Conf Rm. J, Northampton, MA

Time: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Donna Zucker, 413-545-1343

Hepatitis C

Location: Umass Memorial/Wing Memorial Hospital

Patient Lounge 2nd Floor • 40 Wright St, Palmer MA

Time: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Hepatitis C

Location: Mercy Hospital • 759 Chesnut St, Springfield, MA

Time: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Hepatitis C

Location: Mary Lane Hospital

Community Health Information Center • 85 South Street, Ware MA

Time: 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Hepatitis C

Location: Noble Hospital • Education Department (Bronson Music Room on the 2nd Floor)
115 West Silver St, Westfield MA

Time: 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: John Helin, 413-575-6064 or 413-533-3472

Southeast Region

Hepatitis C: for people currently receiving treatment

Location: Cape Cod Hospital Infectious Disease Clinical Services (IDCS)

34 Park Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Time: Every Monday, 3-4pm

Contact: Sandra Matias, 508-862-5650

You must call for an assessment before being admitted to the group.

Hepatitis C: for people who have been unsuccessfully treated

Location: Cape Cod Hospital Infectious Disease Clinical Services (IDCS)

34 Park Street Hyannis, MA 02601

Time: Every Monday, 2-3pm

Contact: Sandra Matias, 508-862-5650

You must call for an assessment before being admitted to the group.

Hepatitis C

Location: Outer Cape Health Services,

49 Harry Kemp Way, Provincetown, MA 02657

Time: Call for details.

Contact: 508-255-1903

Section 3: Access to Clean Needles

Needle Exchange Programs

Needle exchange programs offer a variety of services, including the exchange of used needles for clean ones. They also provide education on cleaning and disposing of needles, hepatitis C education, HIV counseling and testing, referrals for substance abuse treatment, and information on how to reduce the harm from intravenous drug use.

There are four needle exchange programs in Massachusetts, which are operated by the following organizations in the indicated cities and towns:

Boston Public Health Commission: Boston
617-771-2138 or 1-800-383-2437

Cambridge Cares About AIDS: Cambridge
617-661-3040 or 617-559-0246

Tapestry Health Systems: Northampton
1-800-696-7752 or 413-586-0310 x106

AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod (ASGCC): Provincetown
508-487-8311 or 1-866-NO-TO-HIV (1-866-668-6448)

Needle Disposal Sites

Some communities in Massachusetts have locations where needles can be safely disposed. For the most current information on these sites and the location closest to you call the Hepatitis C Hotline at 1-888-443-HEPC.

Pharmacy Access to Clean Needles

As of September 2006, individuals in Massachusetts can legally obtain clean needles at local pharmacies (e.g. CVS, Walgreens) without a prescription. Any individual 18 years or older can purchase clean needles at a relatively low cost. Pharmacies are allowed to sell clean needles; they are not required to do so. This means that not all pharmacies sell needles.

For more information about pharmacy access or to learn more about how to properly clean or dispose of needles, call the Pharmacy Access hotline at the AIDS Action Committee at 1-800-988-5209 or call the Hepatitis C Hotline.

Section 4: Alternative Medicine and Complementary Therapies

Alternative medicine and complementary therapy providers include acupuncturists, nutritionists, massage therapists, and herbalists, among others. Some people use these medicine and therapy options to help support the treatment of hepatitis C. As with any treatment choice, it is important that you discuss use of complementary therapies with your primary health care provider.

Acupuncture

Some people may use acupuncture to help reduce the side effects of hepatitis C treatment. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulates acupuncturists; this means that they are licensed, certified, or registered to practice acupuncture. There are multiple ways to locate a licensed acupuncturist in Massachusetts, such as asking friends, family members, your health care provider, or co-workers for a referral. In addition, the New England School of Acupuncture, located in Massachusetts, maintains a database of alumni. You can search the database by state and town. The database can be found at: www.nesa.edu/find.html

Massage Therapy

Some people use massage therapy as a part of their health care. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulates massage therapists; this means that therapists are licensed, certified, or registered to practice massage therapy. There are many ways to locate a massage therapist, however one central resource is the American Massage Therapy Association (www.amtamassage.org). This organization maintains a searchable database of licensed massage therapists, which you can search by city or zip code. Your health care provider, friends, family, and co-workers may also be able to provide referrals.

American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) massage therapist locator:
www.amtamassage.org/findamassage/locator.htm

For more information on alternative treatment and complementary therapies, visit the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at <http://nccam.nih.gov>.

Section 5: Paying for Care

The majority of organizations listed in this guide can provide care at low or no cost. However, it is important to check with the organization or your health insurance provider about coverage for services.

Massachusetts Health Care Reform

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is working to help individuals at all income levels access affordable health insurance. You can find out more about your insurance options from the Massachusetts Health Connector Authority at www.mahealthconnector.org or by calling 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765).

Medicare and Medical Assistance

You may be able to receive government medical insurance such as MassHealth. Call a MassHealth Enrollment Center at 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997) for more information about whether or not you are eligible. Visit www.mass.gov/eohhs and click on the link “For Consumers” at the top of the page and then click on the link for “Low-cost Health Care” to find more information about this program.

Access to Clinical Trials

www.clinicaltrials.gov

The National Institutes of Health maintain a listing of all federally sponsored clinical trials. Through this listing you can search for clinical trials by geographic location or disease condition and sign up to participate in trials. In the case of all medical decisions, you should discuss your interest in a clinical trial with your primary health care provider.

Patient Assistance Programs

Many pharmaceutical companies offer patient assistance programs for drugs that they manufacture. These programs help to decrease or eliminate the cost of medications for patients who are not able to afford them. Each company has a different application process and eligibility criteria. Both Roche Pharmaceuticals and Schering-Plough sponsor programs for hepatitis C medications. In addition, these companies also run patient information hotlines, which provide patients with access to medical professionals who can answer questions related to treatment. For more information on the medications available through each program, see the table on the following page.

Roche Pharmaceuticals

1-877-734-2797

www.pegassist.com

The Pegassist Program is a patient education and support program for those diagnosed with hepatitis B or C. The program allows patients to access trained nurses who can provide periodic

counseling over the phone. In addition, a variety of educational materials about hepatitis B and C are available to patients. Medications available through the program include:

- PEGASYS (Peginterferon alfa-2a),
- Copegus (Ribavirin, USP)

Schering-Plough
1-800-521-7157
www.beincharge.com

The Be In Charge Program is a patient education and support program for those diagnosed with hepatitis B or C. The program allows patients to access trained nurses who can provide periodic counseling over the phone. In addition, a variety of educational materials about hepatitis B or C are available to patients. Medications available through the program include:

- INTRON A Injection (interferon alfa-2b recombinant)
- PEG-INTRON Powder for Injection (peginterferon alfa-2b)
- PEG-INTRON REDIPEN
- REBETOL Capsules (ribavirin, USP)

Section 6: Additional Resources

Health Care Resources

In addition to the organizations listed throughout this guide, other types of programs may also offer hepatitis services as part of their broader range of services. These organizations could include reproductive health clinics, substance abuse clinics or HIV/AIDS service organizations. More information about these types of programs may be found at the following links:

Reproductive Health/Family Planning:

www.mass.gov/eohhs

Click on the link “For Consumers” at the top of the page and then click on the link for “Family Planning”.

Substance Abuse and Addiction Support:

www.helpline-online.com or 800-327-5050

The Massachusetts Substance Abuse and Education Hotline provides free and confidential information and referral for alcohol and other drug abuse problems and related concerns. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

HIV/AIDS:

www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/aids/resources_guide.pdf or 800-235-2331

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s HIV/AIDS resource guide can be found at the link above. The phone number listed is for the AIDS Action Committee HIV/AIDS Hotline.

General Hepatitis Resources

The following is a list of general hepatitis resources that may be helpful for an individual or organization looking for more information or additional services.

- *Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) World Services* (www.aa.org) – Outlines services provided by AA that can help people stop drinking or abusing substances. The site directs people to local AA locations and provides information on how to deal with a substance abuse problem.
- *American College of Gastroenterology* (www.acg.gi.org) – Provides summary information on hepatitis A, B, and C and discusses treatment options.
- *American Dietetic Association* (www.eatright.org) – Contains information on dieting, food and nutrition tips, information on diet related health problems, and advice on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- *American Liver Foundation* (www.liverfoundation.org) or 1-800-GO-LIVER – The website contains information on liver disease, including hepatitis C.

- *AIDS Action Committee* (www.aac.org) – Provides comprehensive information and resources for people at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS.
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis) or 1- 888-4HEP-CDC – Contains fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions about hepatitis.
- *Hepatitis C Support Project* (www.hcvadvocate.org) – Provides resources for and information on hepatitis C that ranges from clinical information to alternative treatments and complementary therapies to support groups.
- *Hepatitis Education Project* (www.scn.org/health/hepatitis/index.htm) – Provides links and resources on a variety of hepatitis-related topics.
- *Hepatitis Foundation International* (www.hepfi.org) – A multi-lingual site offering information on liver disease and viral hepatitis.
- *Immunization Action Coalition* (www.immunize.org) – Contains information on immunizations, including hepatitis A and B.
- *MEDLINEplus Health Information* (www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/hepatitisc.html) – An extensive health information website that includes a medical dictionary, information on prescription and non-prescription drugs, and an overview of hepatitis C.
- *Narcotics Anonymous* (www.na.org) – Provides information on the services offered by Narcotics Anonymous and how to join a group in your area.
- *National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Disease* (www.niddk.nih.gov) – Contains a database of educational materials and a discussion of chronic hepatitis C.
- *National Institute of Health* (www.nih.gov) – Comprehensive health website with links to health publications and current research.

The presence of an Internet site or telephone hotline on this list does not constitute an endorsement by MDPH of the organization, or information, products, or services provided, and none should be inferred.

MDPH is not responsible for the content of the individual organization website or hotlines found on this list. This list is provided as a guide for the public to free information that is available on hepatitis C. The information that these sites provide may not be from peer-reviewed medical journals and the content may not have been subject to review for accuracy by any medical or other authority.